

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 MCT-01 SY-05 SCS-03
SCA-00 DHA-05 /046 W
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P R 072000Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5420
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 4214

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PGOV, PFOR, ES
SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING OF ELENA LIMA CHIURATO

REF: SAN SALVADOR 4184 (NOTAL)

1. SALVADORAN NEWS MEDIA MORNING OF SEPT. 7 GAVE EXTENSIVE
COVERAGE TO SEPT. 6 KIDNAPPING OF ELENA LIMA CHIURATO (COVER-
AGE HOWEVER NOT AS PROMINENT AS THAT ACCORDED APPOINTMENT OF NEW
U.S. AMBASSADOR TO SALVADOR AND PRESIDENT ROMOER'S VISIT TO WASH-
INGTON). PRESS INFORMATION VARIES SLIGHTLY FROM INFORMATION
CONTAINED IN REFTEL. PRESS REPORTS STATE THAT MRS. CHIURATO WAS
ABDUCTED AT GUNPOINT BY TWO PERSONS (AS OPPOSED TO PREVIOUSLY
REPORTED 7) WHO FORCED HER INTO HER OWN CAR NEAR CROWDED CARIBE
SHOPPING CENTER AT 12:45 PM. KIDNAPPERS REPORTEDLY DROVE RAPID-
LY TOWARDS CENTER OF SAN SALVADOR, WITH VARYING REPORTS OF SHOTS
FIRED BY NATIONAL GUARDSMEN IN VICINITY BUT APPARENTLY NO FULL-
SCALE PURSUIT. MRS. CHIURATO'S CAR WAS LOCATED EARLY EVENING
SEPT. 6 ABANDONED SEVERAL MILES FROM SCENE OF KIDNAPPING.
POLICE REPORTEDLY SEARCHING CAR FOR FINGERPRINTS AND OTHER
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CLUES TO ASSIST IN LOCATING MRS. CHIURATO.

2. COMMENT. NO INDICATION IN PRESS AS TO MOTIVE FOR
KIDNAPPING. THUS FAR ALL EMBASSY CONTACTS, INCLUDING
MEMBERS OF IMMEDIATE FAMILY, HAVE STATED THAT THERE HAS BEEN
NO COMMUNICATION WHATSOEVER FROM KIDNAPPERS. MRS. CHIURATO, AGE
50, IS MEMBER OF WELL-TO-DO SALVADORAN FAMILY INVOLVED WITH

COFFEE PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS. FAMILY NOT KNOWN TO BE POLITICALLY ACTIVE. HUSBAND LOUIS CHIURATO IS U.S. CITIZEN CURRENTLY REGISTERED WITH EMBASSY AND ISSUED LAST U.S. PASSPORT DEC. 14, 1976. HE HAS BEEN RESIDENT OF EL SALVADOR FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS AND IS PART OWNER OF SALTEX COMPANY WHOSE PRINCIPAL PRODUCTION IS CONCRETE BUILDING BLOCKS. SINCE NO DEMANDS ARE YET KNOWN FOR RELEASE OF MRS. CHIURATO, THERE ARE THREE MAJOR SEPCULATIONS AS TO MOTIVE FOR KIDNAPPING, WITH FIRST BEING MOST WIDELY EXPRESSED: (1) EMBARRASSMENT TO GOES AND PRESIDENT ROMERO DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON, (2) RANSOM, AND (3) POSSIBLE REVENGE AGAINST CHIURATO FAMILY CARRIED OUT BY RECENTLY-FIRED EMPLOYEES OF SALTEX COMPANY WHICH HAS BEEN EXPERIENCING SOME LABOR PROBLEMS.

3. HIGHLY PLACED DATT SOURCE HAS STATED THAT INVESTIGATION AND GOES EFFORTS TO APPREHEND KIDNAPPERS WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN NORMAL FASHION FOR CRIMINAL ACTIONS. NO INDICATION OF ACTION ON PART OF MILITARY THUS FAR TO INSTITUTE WIDESPREAD ARRESTS OR OTHER FORMS OF EXCESSIVE REPRESSION. THIS IS FIRST KIDNAPPING OF WOMAN IN EL SALVADOR AND WEALTHY SALVADORAN FAMILIES EXTREMELY CONCERNED AND ADSET OVER INCIDENT. ANEP (ASOCIACION NACIONAL DE LA EMPRESA PRIVADA) REPORTEDLY HOLDING MEETING THIS MORNING TO DETERMINE WHAT ACTION, IF ANY, THEY SHOULD UNDERTAKE OR RECOMMEND TO GOES.

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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